

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are amended to clarify and more particularly indicate the claimed subject matter. Claim 23 is new. No new matter is included. In view of following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 15-18, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sybex, Inc. "The ABCs of Word 97", Second Edition, pages 10-12 and pages 43-44 ("Sybex") in view of Microsoft Word 97 application "screenshots", 1997, Microsoft Corporation, pages 1-5 ("Word97"). Claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 are rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Sybex in view of Word97 and further in view of Greyson. Applicant respectfully traverse these rejections as follows.

Independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 21, and 22, as amended, recite essentially the features of deselecting a portion of a selected continuous target information region to create two non-contiguous target information regions that remain selected, and simultaneously processing the two non-contiguous target information regions that remain selected, among other things. At least these two features are not disclosed by the cited references.

Sybex appears to be a user's manual for using the Microsoft Word 97 program. At best, Sybex appears to teach that a user can select a portion of a document and apply formatting, such as bold or italics, to the selected portion of the document. However, Sybex does not teach or suggest simultaneously processing two non-contiguous target information regions because Sybex does not teach or suggest creating two non-contiguous target information regions. In fact, the Examiner admits that Sybex does not explicitly disclose "deselect[ing] at least one portion of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous

target information regions" (Final Office Action, page 3) and relies on Word97 to overcome this deficiency.

Word97 appears to be a series of screenshots wherein the Examiner has input text, selected the text, applied formatting to the text, selected a portion of the previously selected text, and removed the formatting from the newly selected portion of the text. The Examiner alleges that this creates two noncontiguous target information regions. However, the claims recite deselecting a portion of a selected continuous target information region to create two non-contiguous target information regions that remain selected and simultaneously processing the target information regions that remain selected. Both Sybex and Word97, alone and in combination with each other, fail to teach or suggest deselecting a portion of a continuous target information region while the remaining portions of the continuous target information region remain selected (thus creating two associated non-contiguous regions). Microsoft Word does not include this feature. Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 21, and 22 are patentable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2, 5-7, 10, 13, 15, and 18 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth above, these claims are patentable over Sybex and Word97.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 depend from and add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 17. The Examiner relies on Greyson to overcome the deficiencies of Sybex and Word97. However, neither Sybex, Word97, nor Greyson, alone or in combination with one another teach or suggest deselecting a portion of a selected continuous target information region to create two non-contiguous target information regions that remain selected, and simultaneously processing the two non-contiguous target information regions that remain selected. Thus, claims 3, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, and 20 are patentable over Sybex, Word97, and Greyson.

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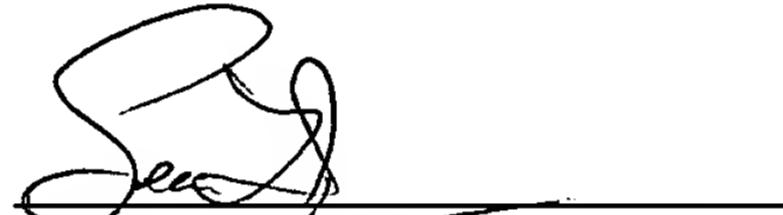
Regarding new claim 23, none of the applied references alone or in combination with one another disclose selecting two non-contiguous target information regions and simultaneously processing the selected non-contiguous target information regions.

A full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram
Registration No.: 48,283
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
1600 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, VA 22102
703-905-2107

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